

THE SHORT REIGN OF NEWFOUNDLAND'S ONE-CENT RED QUEEN VICTORIA STAMP



This exhibit tells the story of the 1897 red one-cent Queen Victoria stamp of Newfoundland – why it was created, its short reign and its successor.

In June 1897, Newfoundland celebrated its 400th anniversary with a stamp set honoring John Cabot. Previous stamps were withdrawn and after the set was printed all plates destroyed. Speculation led to the exhaustion of the one-cent value in September. Colonial Secretary Robert Bond then ordered a *new* one-cent stamp.

The reign of the one-cent red Queen Victoria stamp that arrived in early December 1897 was only six months before it was succeeded by a yellow-green version to comply with the U.P.U. agreement calling for *green* one-cent stamps.

The exhibit has three parts. The first (Pages 2-6) include a rare die proof, plate proof, copies of specimens, the final stamp, a rare thick-paper variety and post card from the General Post Office promoting the stamp.

The second part of the exhibit, shows 14 different rates (Pages 7-15). The red Victoria on cover is scarce. Gathering a variety of rates used properly *within its short six-month reign*, is challenging. Working outward, geographically, you will see covers that are:

- Local (one rate);
- Inland; (one rate);
- To Canada (three rates);
- To the U.S. (including 3 recorded EKV's) (five rates);
- To the United Kingdom (two rates); and,
- To Europe (two rates)

The third part (Page 16) is a one-page look of the successor, green version of the Victoria stamp, issued in June, 1898.

Rare items, including those unique, are designated with a ● .

VICTORIA STAMPS ARRIVE



The 1¢ red Queen Victoria stamp and 2¢ orange Prince Edward stamp were invoiced on November 23, 1897. On Saturday, December 4, 1897, the S.S. Portia delivered 400,000 of each for distribution by the General Post Office, in St. John's. Printed in sheets of 100, there were no marginal indicia. On December 6, supplies were sent to the outports.



A copy of the red Victoria on *thick paper*. Expert Robert Pratt reported in 1981 that examples of such "exist on .0045 inch thick white wove paper," the thickness as measured of the selvedge of the above stamp. Only eight copies were recorded, per Pratt. The thickness of the normal paper is only .0032 inches. Unlike other issues of the Royal Family set, there are no known imperforate or part-perforate examples of the red Victoria.



Card front reduced.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

189

THE following Stamps are on sale at this Office:—

CABOT ISSUE, 1897, Fourteen varieties, viz.:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 35 and 60 cents. or the full set,	-	\$2.15
--	---	--------

N.B.—The One and Two Cents of this Issue cannot be obtained outside the full sets.

FORMER ISSUE, Nine varieties, viz.:

½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12 and 24 cents, or the set,	-	.64
--	---	-----

N.B.—This Issue is sold **only** in sets.

NEW PERMANENT ISSUE, 1 and 2 cents,	-	.03
POST CARDS, 1, 2, 2 x 2. or the set,	-	.07
ENVELOPES and WRAPPERS, the set	-	.19
Postage and Registration, on one set,	-	.20
Total cost of One each of all the above,	-	\$3.28

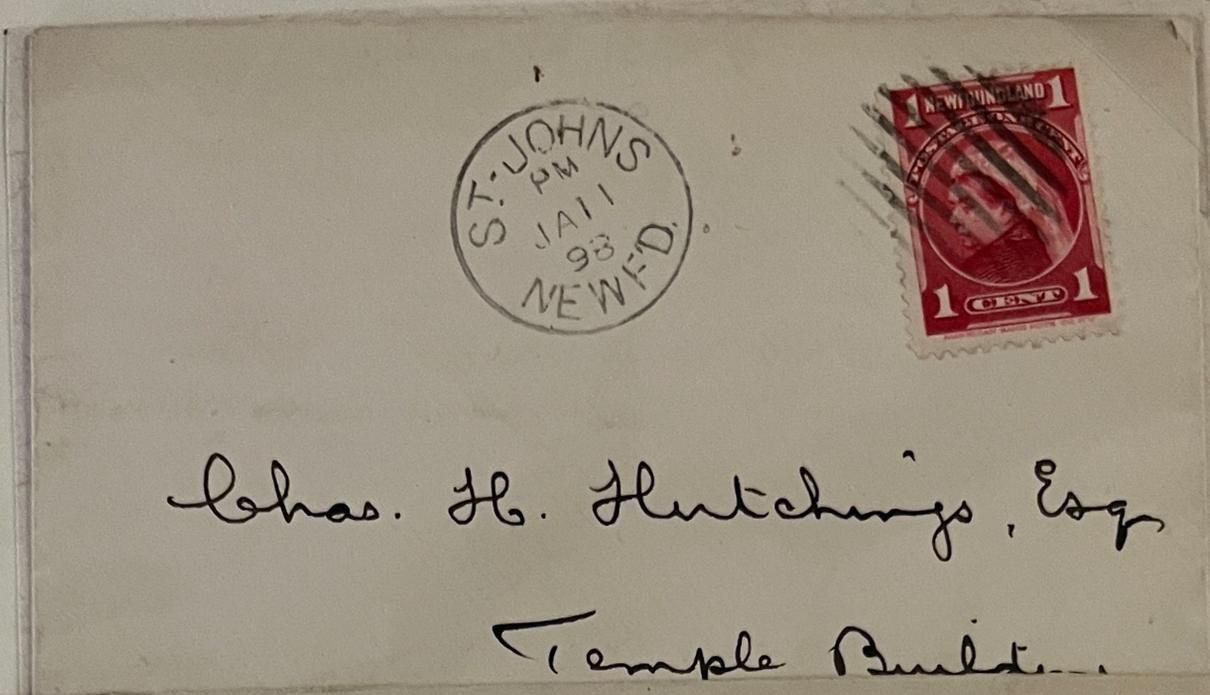
J. O. FRASER, Post Master General.

Newfoundland's PMG issued a series of post cards from the General Post Office listing stamps available to collectors. The last card, in early 1898, included the "New Permanent Issue, 1 and 2 cents" – the red Queen Victoria and Prince Edward stamps. This approach drew the wrath of the new Colonial Secretary, J. Alex Robinson:

"An advertising card, apparently issued under your direction, has come to my attention. I beg to remind you that the sale of stamps for other than postal purposes is not the province of...your department, and the Government are not ambitious to place themselves in rivalry with stamp dealers...."

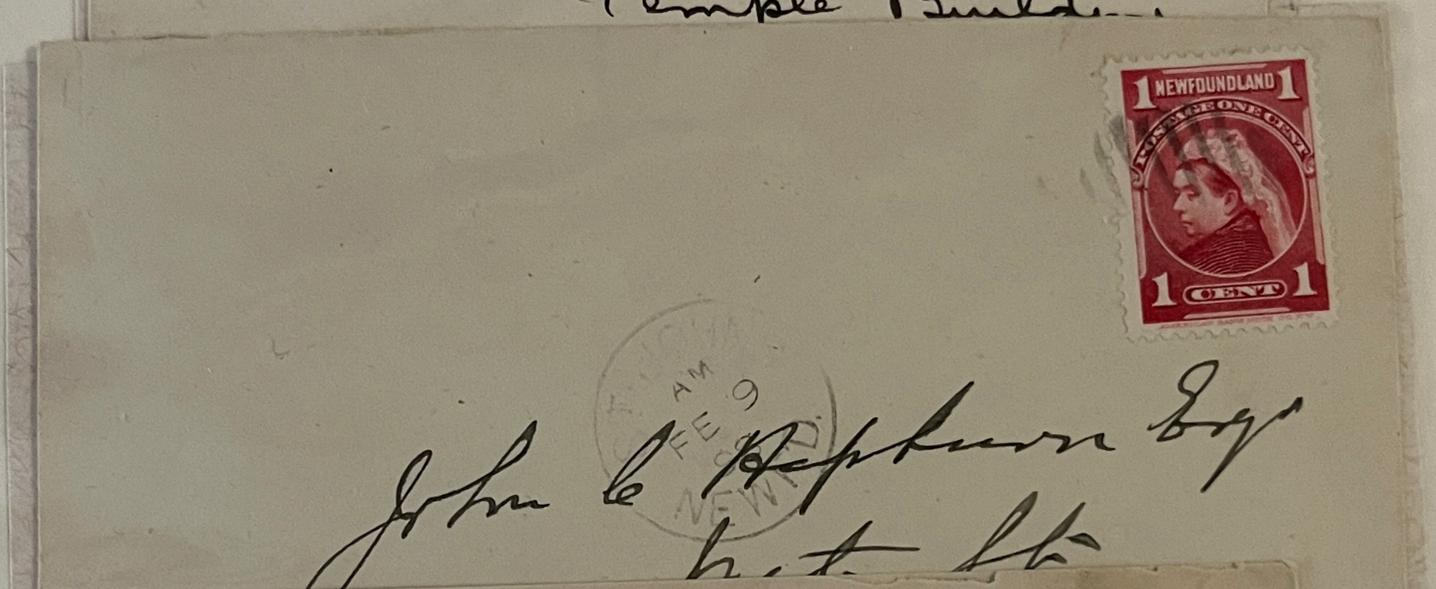
The card was immediately withdrawn. Very few examples survived.

LOCAL RATE

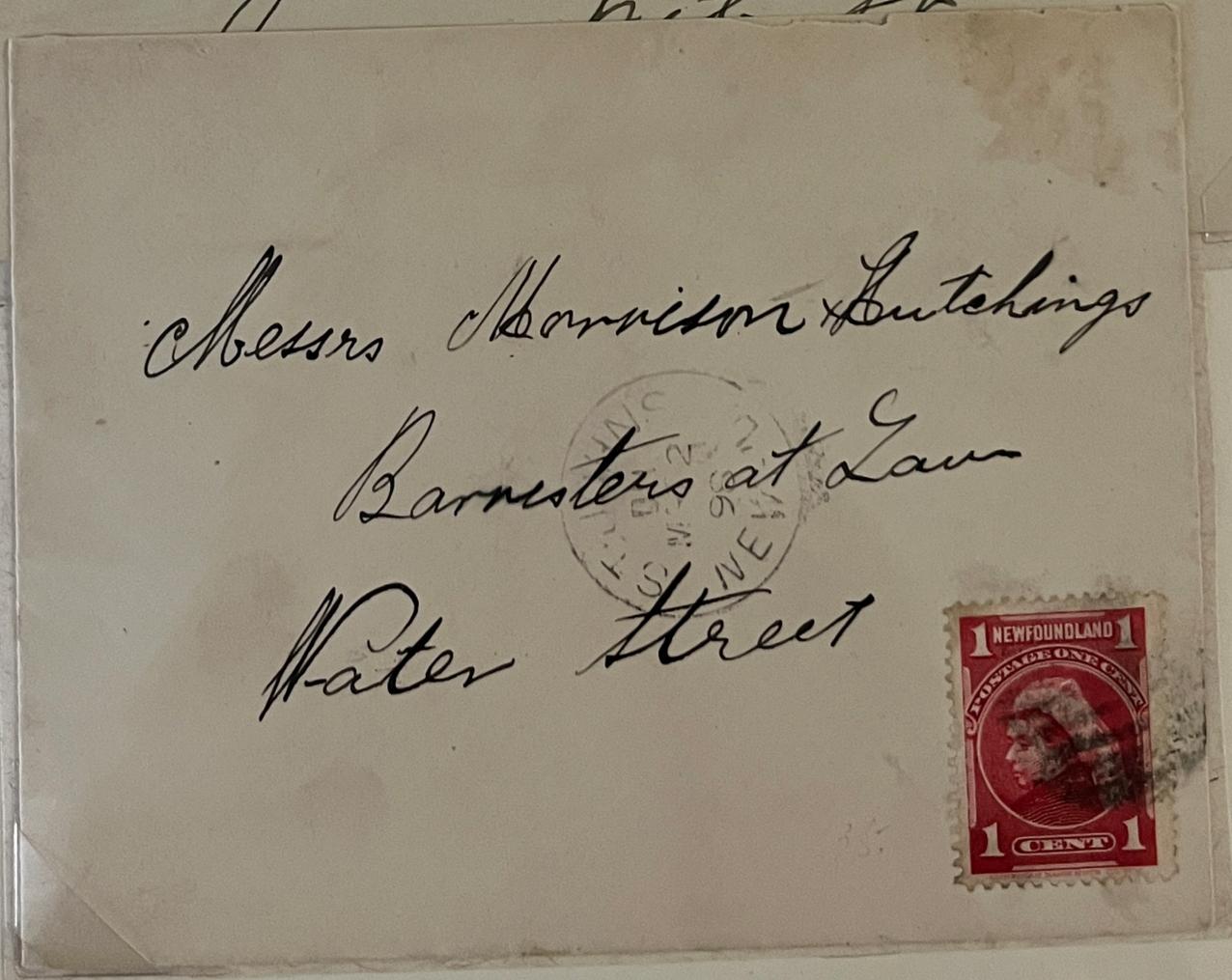


Chas. H. Hutchings, Esq

Temple Building



John E. Pepperson Esq
Water St



Messrs Harrison & Hutchings

Barristers at Law

Water Street

Three drop covers in St. John's, JA 11, FE 9 and MR 2 98. The red Victoria was used widely during this period to pay the one-cent local ("drop") rate. St. John's, with a population of 29,000 (1899), was the capital and largest city in the colony.

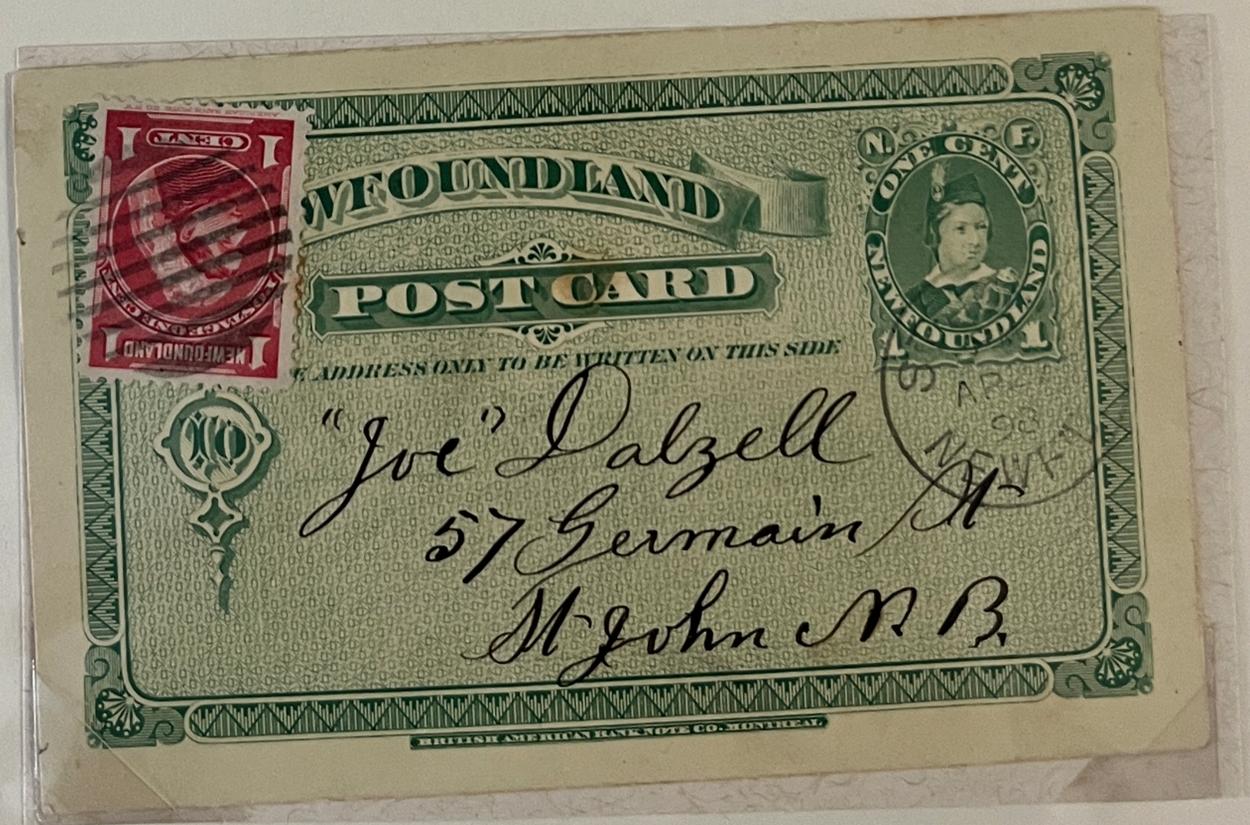
INLAND



From reverse

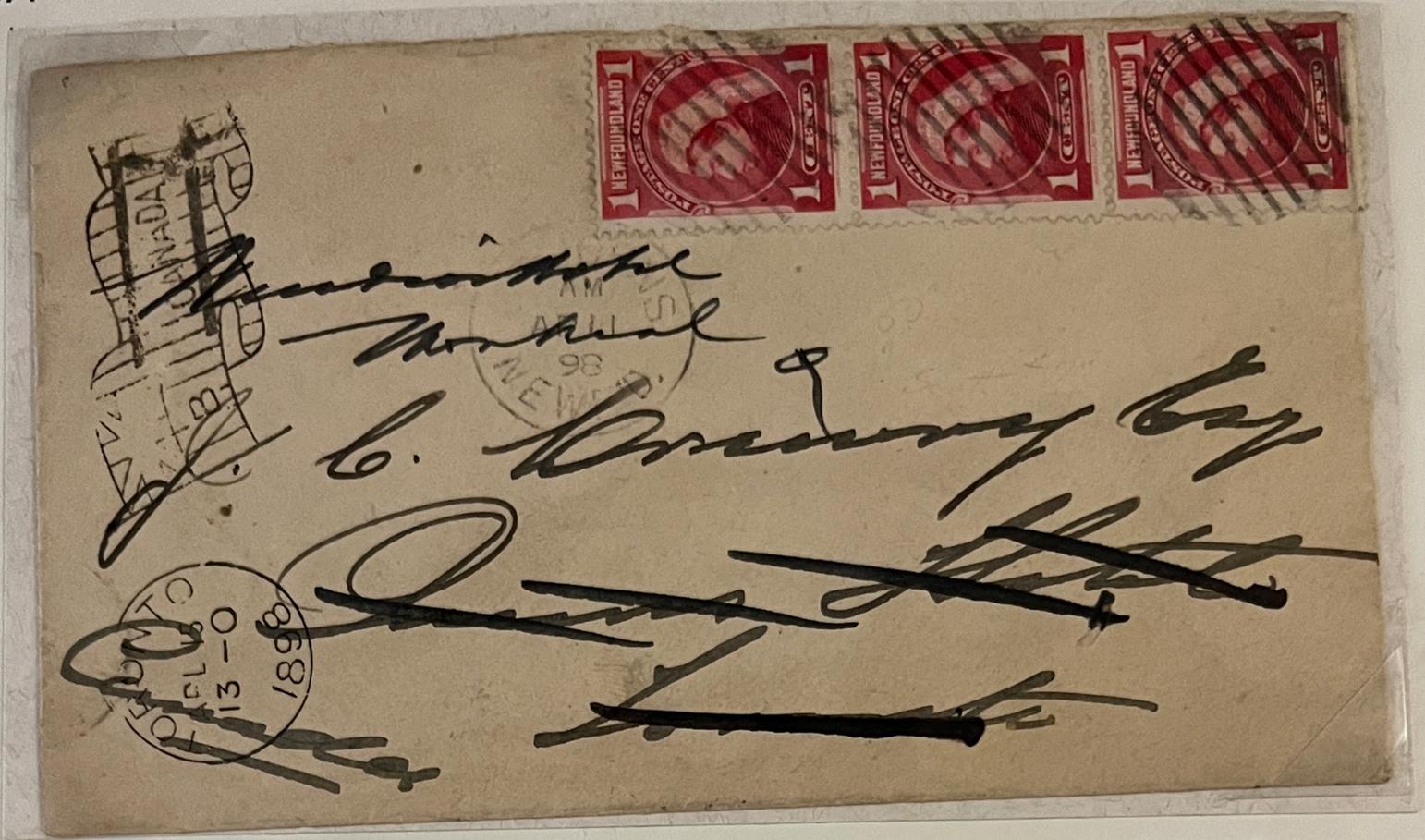
The inland (domestic) rate was three-cents. This AP 05 98 cover is from Twillingate on Notre Dame Bay to the small village of Petites on the west coast. It entered the railroad system about 60 miles south, at Notre Dame Junction. The Hall's Bay Railroad Traveling Post Office handled mail a few miles west of the junction, to St. John's starting in 1891. This T.P.O. is from AP 12 98. The St John's forwarding marking is from AP 14 98.

CANADA



The postcard rate to Canada was 2¢. The 1880 1¢ Prince of Wales postcard is uprated To 2¢ on AP 27 98.

CANADA



This AP 11 98 cover, at the 3¢ letter rate, was originally sent to the Queens Hotel in Toronto. It was forwarded on APL 13 to the Windsor Hotel in **Montreal** where it was backstamped by the hotel on APR 16. The flag cancel is Richardson Type 8, rarely used *vertically*. Normally, when a cover was forwarded it was run through the canceling machine again with the new cancel on top of the original. Perhaps here, the special handling was done because the post office did not want to recancel a "foreign" stamp.

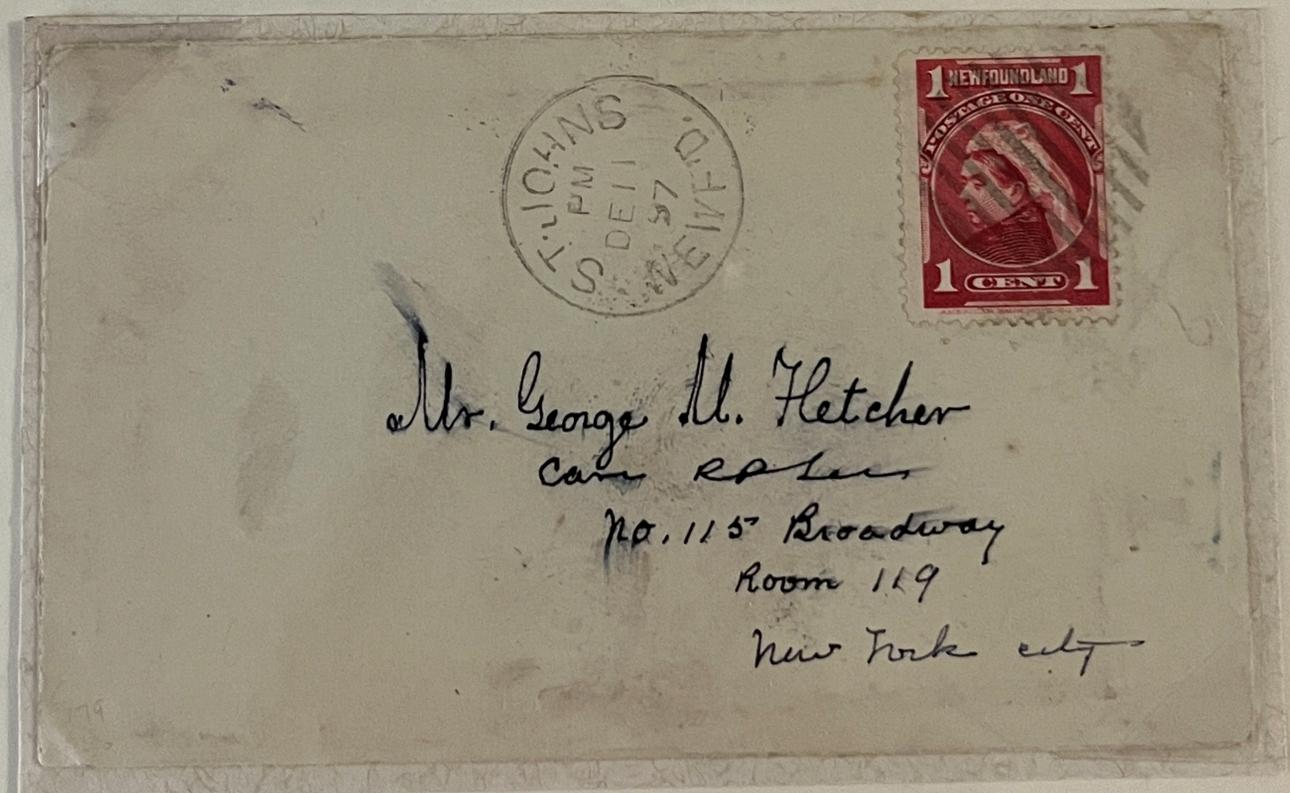


The registered rate to Canada was 8¢ in 1897. This 21 DE 97 cover is overfranked by 2¢. The registered rate to the U.S., Great Britain and foreign was 10¢, and a prominent postal historian speculates the sender erred, thinking the proper rate was 10¢.

UNITED STATES

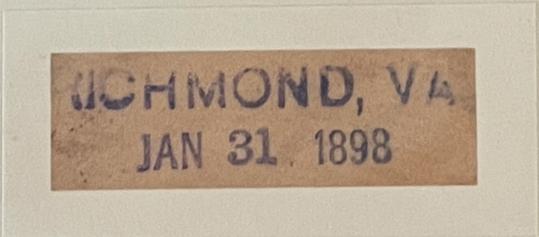


Uncommon usage of *five* Victoria's to pay letter rate to U.S. in December of 1897.



One-cent third-class/circular rate to New York. This rate is seldom seen.
Cover was postmarked **DE 11 97**, first week of usage.

UNITED STATES DOUBLE WEIGHT REGISTERED

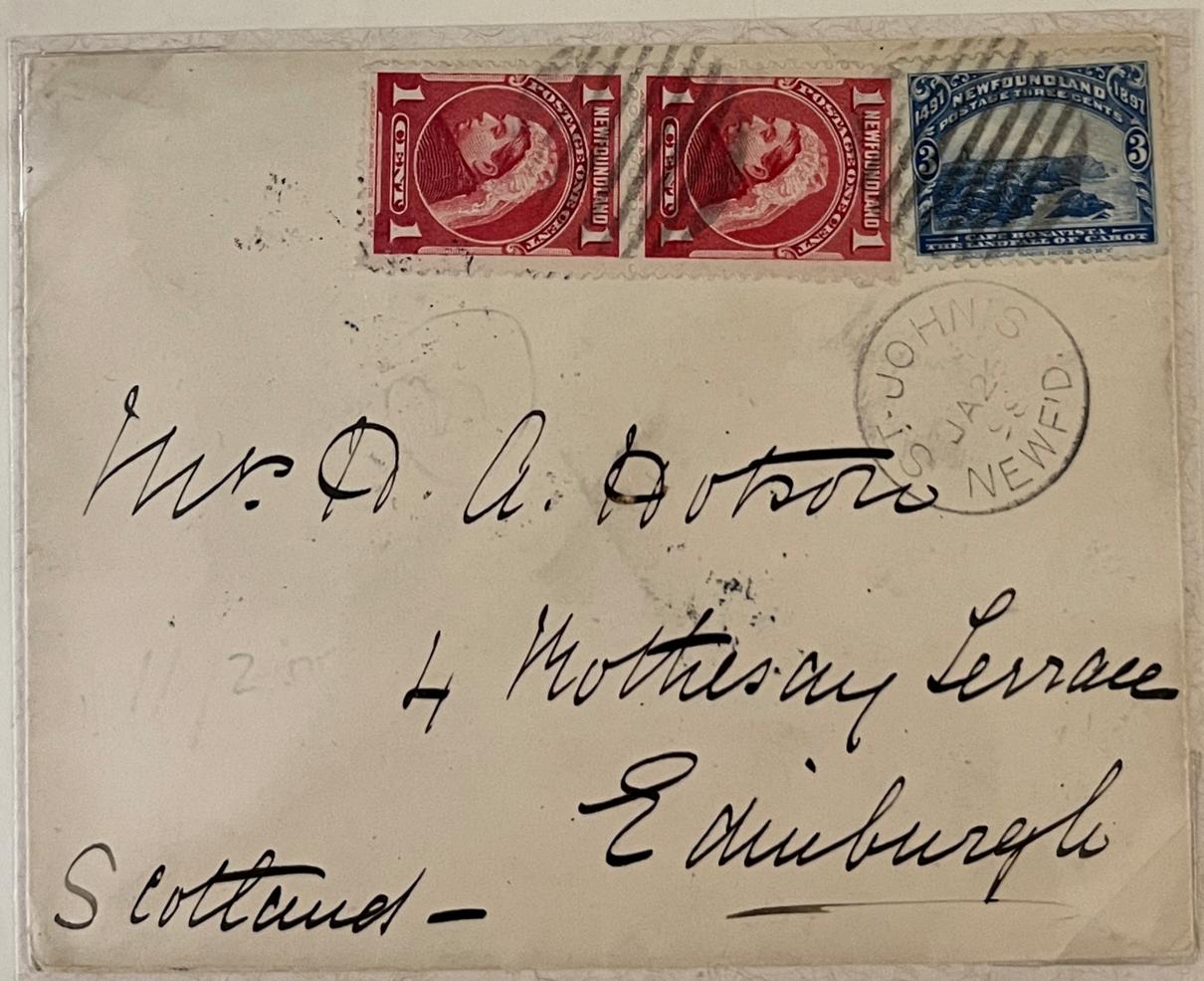


Fee of 15¢ = 5¢ basic rate + 5¢ per ½ ounce extra weight + 5¢ registration.
Sent JA 22 98. Richmond straight-line receiver JAN 31 1898.

UNITED KINGDOM



Victoria uprating 1880 Edward post card to two-cent rate, sent to Sussex, England with Glasgow receiver of JU 4 98



Two Victoria's and three-cent Cabot making up five-cent letter rate to Edinburgh, Scotland, JA 26 98

FOREIGN RATE TO SWITZERLAND REGISTERED



One Victoria and two Edward's pay the five-cent letter rate to Switzerland, MY 7 98. Reverse has a 22 V 98 Bern receiver.



Four Victoria's and three Edward's pay the ten-cent registered rate to Switzerland. Front has a St. John's 7 MR 98 squared circle precursor postmark, MR 7 98 cancels, a Registration marking as well as a London transit marking of 22 MR 98. Reverse has a 23 III 98 Bern receiver.

REGULAR 1¢ STAMPS, AT LAST!

On Saturday, December 4, 1897, a new red 1¢ Queen Victoria stamp finally became available, along with a new 2¢ Prince Edward stamp as the 2¢ Cabot would soon be depleted, also. No longer would the public and vendors suffer from a lack of 1¢ stamps. The cover is from **MR 29 98**, paying the 3¢ inland rate.



Ironically, the 1¢ red Victoria's "reign" would only be about six months as the U.P.U. agreement called for GREEN 1¢ stamps. The green version of the same design would issue in June of 1898.

GREEN QUEEN VICTORIA STAMP

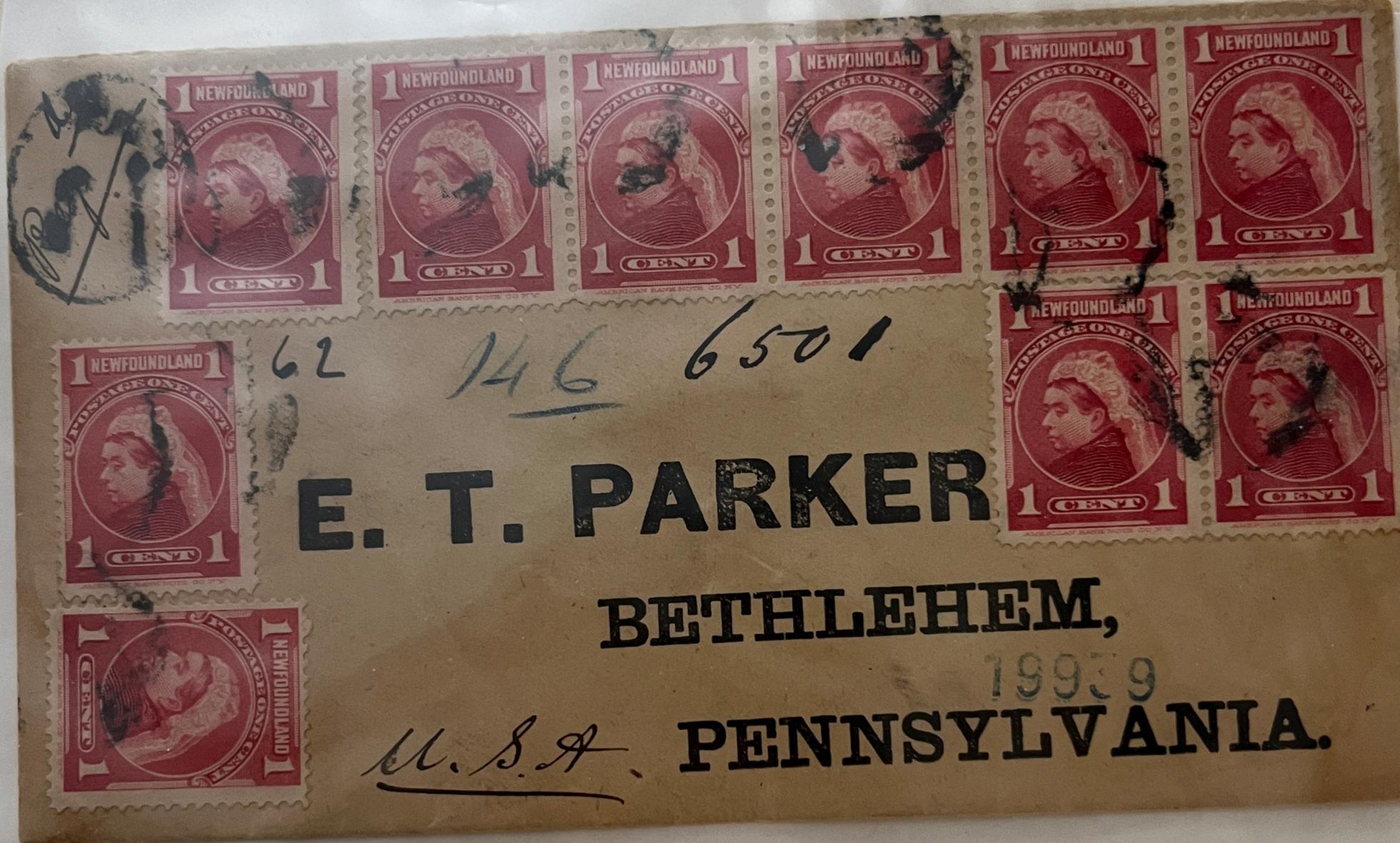


April 1898 specimen



Issued stamp, June 1898

As indicated earlier, the "reign" of the 1¢ red Queen Victoria stamp was short as it, as well as the orange Prince Edward stamps, did not meet UPU color requirements. In mid-June of 1898, just over six months from their release, both stamps were reprinted, the 1¢ in a shade of yellow-green and the 2¢ in vermilion. The JU 20 98 cover above to the U.S. shows the green version plus the contemporary 4¢ Cabot paying the 5¢ rate to the United States. The new Victoria was released on June 18th.



62 146 6501

E. T. PARKER

BETHLEHEM,

19939

U.S.A.

PENNSYLVANIA.